

**DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
BUREAU OF NAVAL PERSONNEL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20370-5000**

IN REPLY REFER TO
BUPERSINST 1500.62
Pers-446B
5 AUG 1992

BUPERSINST 1500.62

From: Chief of Naval Personnel
To: All Ships and Stations (less Marine Corps Field addressees
not having Navy personnel attached)

Subj: TEST PILOT SCHOOLS

1. Purpose. To publish information concerning the courses of instruction offered at the United States Naval Test Pilot School (USNTPS), United States Air Force Test Pilot School (USAFTPS), British Empire Test Pilot School (ETPS), and the French Test Pilot School (EPNER).

2. Cancellation. NAVMILPERSCOMINST 1331.1C

3. Background

a. The Naval Warfare Center (NAWC), Aircraft and Weapons Divisions as well as Operational Test and Evaluation Squadrons are responsible for testing and evaluating aircraft systems, components, and related equipment. The USNTPS is responsible for training experienced fleet naval aviators, naval flight officers, and project engineers to conduct these tests.

b. The Navy has TPS exchange programs with the United States Air Force, the Royal Air Force, and the French Navy. The USAFTPS is located at Edwards Air Force Base, California; the ETS at Boscombe Down, Salisbury, England; and EPNER at Istres, France.

c. The assignment of test pilot school graduates is based on the needs of the service. USNTPS graduates can normally expect to complete a 36 to 42 month tour, including Test Pilot School, at the NAWC. Graduates of the USAFTPS, ETPS, and EPNER may normally expect a 24 to 30 month follow-on tour at a Navy activity requiring test pilots.

4. Scope

a. The duration of the courses of instruction is approximately 1 year.

b. Academic study in aerodynamics, aircraft stability and control, power plant analysis, airborne systems, and related engineering subjects are included in all four courses of instruction.

c. The flight syllabus at each school is designed to provide actual experience in the testing of modern aircraft and airborne systems. as well as the reduction analysis and reporting of the data obtained.

d. The USNTPS offers three curricula: fixed wing, rotary wing, and airborne systems. The fixed wing and rotary wing curricula prepare pilots and engineers to test airborne mission systems as well as flying qualities and performance. The airborne systems curriculum prepares naval flight officers and engineers to test airborne mission systems.

e. Multi-engine candidates can expect jet transition training and rotary wing candidates can expect multi-engine training en route to USNTPS. Candidates en route to the ETPS and EPNER can expect aircraft/systems preparatory training at USNTPS. Additionally, the candidate selected for EPNER will attend the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California for 6 months and complete the 3 month French technical language course in France prior to class convening date.

5. Convening Dates. Classes are convened at the USNTPS in January and July of each year. Each class mix of aviators and naval flight officers will be determined by the Test Pilot School Selection Board based on current requirements. The USAFTPS convenes classes in January and July and the ETPS convenes classes in January of each year. EPNER convenes classes every year; the Navy selects a candidate for every third class, beginning with the class commencing September 1993.

6. Eligibility. Designated naval aviators and naval flight officers through the grade of lieutenant commander may apply. All applications will be reviewed by BUPERS to determine board eligibility. Applications for TPS must meet the following minimum qualifications:

a. Bachelor of Science degree in engineering, physical science, or mathematics (may be waived if requirements dictate and applicant has completed college-level calculus and physics). For those interested in the Navy Postgraduate School Test Pilot School (NPSTPS) Cooperative Program, see special academic requirements listed in paragraph 7 of this instruction.

b. Recent experience in an operational squadron. While it is highly desirable that applicants shall have acquired over 1,000 hours of flight time (projected to the class convening date), waivers may be granted in special cases where unique individual qualifications exist.

c. Only fixed wing pilots will be considered for USAFTPS. Only fixed wing and rotary wing pilots will be considered for ETPS and EPNER.

7. NPSTPS Cooperative Program

a. The Naval Postgraduate School - Naval Test Pilot School (NPSSTPS) Cooperative Program provides an opportunity for all communities to enter the test pilot program. A concentrated five quarter Aeronautical Engineering curriculum is offered. In addition, naval flight officers may choose a six quarter Aeronautical Engineering/Avionics curriculum. Successful graduates of the NPS and follow-on TPS curricula are awarded a Master's Degree in Aeronautical Engineering (subspecialty code XX71P or XX72P), designation as a test pilot school graduate, and are subsequently assigned to the NAWC for approximately 24-30 months. Candidates must be volunteers (specify in paragraph 9, of the test pilot school application), and have less than 7 years commissioned service.

b. Due to the accelerated nature of the NPS portion of the program, candidates must have an exceptional academic background. It is desired that applicants have a Bachelor of Science in Engineering with a "B" average or better, although consideration may be given to those with a physical science or mathematics major. Specific background is desired in math through ordinary differential equations, statistics, dynamics, strength of materials, thermodynamics, and fluid dynamics. Background in one of these areas may be waived for highly qualified applicants, provided they are able to report to Naval Postgraduate School one quarter early for refresher training.

8. Selection. Selections will be made by the board approximately 6 months prior to the class convening dates, as follows:

a. The February selection board will select students for the July USNTPS, USAFTPS, and NPSTPS classes.

b. The July selection board will select students for the January USNTPS class, the January ETPS class, the September EPNER class, and NPSTPS. The EPNER class selection is every 3 years with selections being made by the July 92, July 95, etc., selection boards.

9. Enrollment Procedures

a. Applications should be submitted no earlier than 9 months prior to the desired class. Deadline for receipt of

applications is 60 days prior to the published selection board convening month.

b. Applications who are not selected will not automatically be considered by the next selection board. Application for subsequent boards needs only to include a current command endorsement, an updated flight hour report, and/or any other significant changes since initial submission which would affect selection.

c. Applications will be addressed to the Chief of Naval Personnel (Pers-446B), Washington, D.C. 20370-5446, and shall include the following information:

(1) Total number of flight hours as of the date of application (listed by hours and aircraft).

(2) Total number of flight hours projected to the convening date of the class for which application is made.

(3) Number of day and night carrier/shipboard/small deck landings as of the date of application.

(4) Number of day and night carrier/shipboard/small deck landings projected to the convening date of the class for which application is made.

(5) Special mission/community qualifications to include total hours and date qualified, if applicable (e.g., P-3C PP/400 hrs/JUN 84, E-2C CECO/100 hrs/MAY 87, F-14A Division Leader/300 hrs/DEC 85).

(6) Significant operational deployments (timeframe/duration).

(7) List of TPS programs for which applicant desires to be considered (i.e., USNTPS, USAFTPS, ETPS, EPNER, NPSTPS Cooperative Program).

(8) Agreement not to tender resignation or request inactive duty (if United States Naval Reserve) while attending training. Agreement to serve on active duty for a periods of 4 years after completion of training.

(9) A completed NAVPERS 1301/1, Officer Preference and Personal Information Card.

(10) Educational background. Transcripts of courses completed, including pertinent postgraduate courses, are essential for selection and must be available to the board. Applicants should provide a copy of transcripts with the application if doubt exists that a transcript is in the individual's service record.

(11) Any additional information about the applicant's background and experience which would be useful to the board in choosing those officers who would be best suited for selection.

d. Commanding officer's endorsement of the application shall include an evaluation of the applicant's airmanship, temperament, and motivation. Only those officers who are truly outstanding and have the ability and desire to progress rapidly in aviation should be recommended. The commanding officer shall also review the applicant's projected flight hour and carrier/shipboard/small deck landings, and special qualifications to ensure that they are realistic in terms of projected command employment.

10. Declination. Selectees who elect not to attend test pilot school shall notify the Chief of Naval Personnel, by official letter, as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after selection.

11. Forms Availability. NAVPERS 1301/1, (Rev. 10-83), Officer Preference and Personal Information Card, S/N 0106-LF-013-0109, is available from the Navy supply system per NAVSUP P-2002.

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